

Household Elf Badge for Brownies



Below are the 5 steps required for completing the Brownie Household Elf Badge. Please note, each step has different options on how to complete the step if you don't want to do the one listed. These can be found online by a simple Google search, Pinterest or in your badge book.

1. **Save Energy** – go on an energy scavenger hunt. With your family, look for appliances and electronics that are plugged in when they're not in use. Some of these things use energy called 'standby power' even if they are not turned on. Together make a plan to conserve energy for one week. Some examples of things that might be plugged in that you aren't currently using could be the toaster oven, the can opener, a cell phone charger, a hair dryer, or a vacuum. See how many things you can find in your house that are plugged in and aren't being used!
2. **Save Water** – find three ways to save water. Take a few moments with your family to think about how you can save water and make a water-saving plan. Try following the plan for two weeks. Need some ideas to start? Try running the dishwasher only when it's full or when washing dishes, don't let the water run, put a brick in the tank of the toilet to take up space so you use less water when flushing. What are some of your ideas?
3. **Go Natural** – make a natural cleaner. Do you help your parents clean the house? Make a natural cleaner to use around the house! Use it to clean every week for a month. If you don't have the necessary supplies at home, that's okay. Think of alternatives on how you can 'green clean' your home! Try using a cloth or an old t-shirt instead of a paper towel when wiping down counters and windows.

All Purpose Cleaning Spray

Ingredients:

8-Ounces Vinegar (White Preferred)
20-25 Drops of Favorite Essential Oil

Materials:

16-Ounce Glass Spray Bottle

Directions: Add essential oil and vinegar to spray bottle and top it off with water.



4. **Reuse or Recycle** – donate toys and clothes. With your family, go through your toys and clothes. Set aside anything you no longer play with or wear. Make sure anything in this pile is in good enough condition that someone else could use it. Then go online together and find a place that accepts donations. Bag up your things and drop them off! A few places to think about dropping off your stuff off to could be the Salvation Army, a homeless shelter, or Safe Horizon.

5. **Clear the Air** – make a natural air freshener. Work with an adult to make your own fresh scent for the house. Team up to boil 2 quarts of water with 2 tablespoons of white vinegar. Add a few drops of scented oil or fruit and simmer for a few more minutes. You can leave this in the pot on the stove for a while to make the home smell fresh and fragrant. A few examples of homemade scents can be two sliced lemons with 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract, or add cinnamon (ground or stick is okay), orange or tangerine peels and 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract.